

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 PA-02 INR-10 INRE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02
PM-05 /076 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----083058 081706Z /45

O 081605Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 7, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 7,
1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE TOLD A GROUP OF
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REPORTERS THAT HE IS SENDING ARMS TO SOMALIA AND HE DOES
NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING MILITARY PERSONNEL
TO SOMALIA TO HELP THEM. IF THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS
ITS BAN ON DIRECT ARMS AID TO SOMALIA, IS THERE A
POSSIBILITY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REPLACE ARMS
THAT EGYPT SENDS TO SOMALIA?

A. NO. THE PURPOSE OF ANY ARMS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE TO
MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE. OUR
POSITION ON THE TRANSFER OF OUR ARMS, ON THE ONE HAND,
AND THE POSITION ON THE INTERVENTION OF OTHER POWERS
THROUGH MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR TROOPS, ON THE OTHER, INTO
THE ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT -- THE CONFLICT IN
OGADEN, PARTICULARLY -- IS VERY CLEAR, AND I CAN

REITERATE IT; BUT WE DO NOT HAVE A PROGRAM OF
INDIRECTLY DOING THAT WHICH WE SAY WE'RE AGAINST DIRECTLY

Q. ALL RIGHT. AS I UNDERSTAND THE U.S. POLICY, IT IS
THAT THE AFRICAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS.
PRESUMABLY EGYPT IS INCLUDED AS AN AFRICAN COUNTRY.
WOULD WE SUPPORT EGYPT IF THEY, IN FACT, WERE TO SEND
TROOPS?

A. I WANT TO EXTEND WHAT I SAID BEFORE BECAUSE I THOUGHT
I TRIED TO SAY IT. IT IS, SIMPLY, WE OBVIOUSLY FEEL
THAT ANYTHING WHICH ADDS TO THE FIGHTING, WHICH

ENCOURAGES AN ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING, IS NOT USEFUL TO WHAT WE BELIEVE IS NECESSARY -- WHICH IS AN END TO THE CONFLICT AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE OAU. AND THAT, REALLY, IS A FEELING THAT WE HAVE GENERALLY WITHOUT REGARD TO WHO MIGHT BE ENCOURAGING OR PARTICIPATING IN ESCALATING THAT CONFLICT.

Q. TO WHAT DEGREE HAS THAT POINT OF VIEW BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSMITTED TO THE ISRAELIS.

A. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEW POINTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HORN CLEAR TO A NUMBER OF PARTIES, INCLUDING THE ISRAELIS.

Q. THEN "ANYTHING" IS YOUR GENERAL WORD. WHAT SPECIFICALLY WOULD YOU DISCOURAGE? IN FACT, IT'S A VERY CAREFUL EXTENSION OF THE CARTER DOCTRINE. YOU'RE NOT CONDEMNING ANYTHING. YOU JUST WOULDN'T WANT SOME SORT OF THINGS TO HAPPEN, AND YOU DON'T SAY WHAT SORT OF THINGS THEY WOULD BE. IT WAS ASKED, FOR INSTANCE, ABOUT MEN AND ABOUT EQUIPMENT.

A. I'D SAY, FRANKLY, AT THIS POINT, WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF MEN OR MATERIEL WHOSE NET EFFECT WOULD BE TO ESCALATE THE CONFLICT IN THAT REGION.

Q. WELL, MORE SPECIFICALLY, ARE YOU URGING PRESIDENT SADAT NOT TO DO SO?

A. AGAIN, WITHOUT GOING INTO OUR DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS EITHER WITH PRESIDENT SADAT OR ANYONE ELSE, WE HAVE MADE THIS VIEWPOINT CLEAR TO A NUMBER OF PARTIES.

Q. WAS EGYPT INFORMED OF THIS?

A. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWPOINT CLEAR TO A NUMBER OF PARTIES, AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE EGYPT AMONG OTHERS.

Q. YOU ARE DISPLEASED WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT FOR DOING SOMETHING ON THE WHOLE AS YOU ARE WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET UNION AND CUBA; THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.

A. LET ME REPHRASE THAT, SINCE I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT THE PHRASING. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE PARTICIPATION

OF OUTSIDE POWERS OR THE ADDITION OF MATERIEL IS USEFUL TO WHAT WE THINK IS NECESSARY, WHICH IS A NEGOTIATED END TO THE CONFLICT. THAT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER UNDER WHAT TERMS.

Q. YOU'VE BEEN SPEAKING OF WHAT YOU THINK IS USEFUL OR YOU'RE INTERESTED IN. IS THE ADMINISTRATION TAKING ANY SPECIFIC ACTIVE STEPS TO PROMOTE ITS VIEWPOINT AND TO DISCOURAGE THE TYPE OF THING YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

A. AGAIN, I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATIONS. I CAN ONLY SAY OUR VIEWPOINT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR.

Q. IT'S STILL A VERY GENTLE PRESENTATION YOU'RE MAKING HERE. DO YOU OPPOSE -- I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK IT'S USEFUL -- DO YOU OPPOSE THE INTRODUCTION OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT, WITHOUT GETTING INTO WHO YOU TOLD THIS TO?

A. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT WE THOUGHT THAT ANYTHING WHICH HELPS TO PROLONG OR INTENSIFY THAT CONFLICT WE BELIEVE IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED OR TO PEACE IN THE REGION AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT FOLLOWS LOGICALLY FROM THAT THAT WE WOULD BE ENCOURAGING GENERALLY PEOPLE NOT TO TAKE SUCH STEPS.

Q. YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEAK OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, BUT CAN YOU SAY AT LEAST THAT THIS ENCOURAGING HAS BEEN DONE AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS COUNTRIES IN THE AREA?
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A. YES. I'M NOT GOING TO GO DOWN A WHOLE LIST. BUT I AM GOING TO SAY THAT OUR VIEWPOINTS ON THE SUBJECT OF WHAT WE THINK IS A PROPER RESOLUTION OF THE OGADEN CONFLICT HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF PARTIES WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THAT AREA, AND IT STARTS GETTING WIDER AND WIDER.

Q. I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHETHER THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY AND THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT AND THE DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT DOES MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

A. WELL, I MEAN YOU CAN SAY CLEARLY THAT OBVIOUSLY THE ADDITION OF THOUSANDS OF MEN AND SCORES OF TANKS OR AIRPLANES, OR WHAT HAVE YOU, IS DIFFERENT QUALITATIVELY THAN THE ADDITION OF OTHER KIND OF MATERIEL OR PERHAPS TRAINING FUNCTIONS OR SOMETHING ELSE. THE PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, THAT I'M SPEAKING TO IS NOT ALTERED BY THOSE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES.

Q. IS THE PRINCIPLE AFFECTED AT ALL BY THE RECIPIENT OF THOSE ARMS? I MEAN, THE UNITED STATES FINDS ITSELF IN THE SOMEWHAT CURIOUS POSITION OF CONDEMNING THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, WHEN AT THE SAME TIME THE ISRAELIS ARE SENDING WEAPONS TO PRECISELY THE SAME COUNTRY. IS THERE ANY DISTINCTION THAT IS DRAWN BETWEEN MEN AND MATERIEL, LET'S SAY, GOING TO ETHIOPIA AND MEN AND MATERIAL GOING TO SOMALIA?

A. AS A MATTER OF FACT, OUR POLICY ON THAT, AS YOU KNOW, INCLUDES BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA; BUT IN TERMS OF THE POLICY -- AND I JUST WANT TO MAKE THIS DISTINCTION -- THE POLICY IS A CLEAR ONE AND A UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSISTENT ONE, AND THAT IS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE WAY TO RESOLVE THIS PARTICULAR CONFLICT IS TO TAKE STEPS WHICH INTENSIFY, OR CAN INTENSIFY THE FIGHTING OR WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE EITHER SIDE TO SEEK A FINAL MILITARY SOLUTION, AS OPPOSED TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

Q. IS THERE AN AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OR SYMPATHY TO THE BACKGROUND FOR THE ISRAELI SUPPLIES TO ETHIOPIA, AS EXPLAINED BY MR. DAYAN YESTERDAY, FOR THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ETHIOPIA.

A. I CAN SAY WE UNDERSTAND THE VIEWPOINTS OF A NUMBER OF PARTIES INVOLVED THERE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO SAY I'M MORE OR LESS SYMPATHETIC TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

Q. WHY THE TIMING OF YOUR REMARKS TODAY? IS IT JUST THAT DAYAN ADMITTED YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL IS SELLING ARMS TO ETHIOPIA, BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN AFTER YOU FOR SOME DAYS NOW TO COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THAT ISRAEL WAS SELLING ARMS.

A. I QUITE FRANKLY, WAS IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON IT

Q. ARE YOU IN A POSITION NOW? HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

A. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, AT LEAST IN THE RECORD IF NOT IN YOUR MINDS, THE IMPLICATION THAT THIS POLICY STATEMENT THAT I'M MAKING IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE SAID BEFORE.

Q. TODAY YOU'VE SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT YOU'VE TOLD THIS TO ISRAEL AND TO EGYPT. WE HAVE BEEN ASKING YOU FOR DAYS IF THE UNITED STATES HAD INFORMED ISRAEL OF ITS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO ANSWER UP TO NOW. I'M JUST CURIOUS WHY IT'S COMING UP TODAY.

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A. IF YOU ASKED ME THE DIRECT QUESTION, "HAVE WE MADE OUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT KNOWN TO SPECIFIC PEOPLE," TO BE QUITE FRANK WITH YOU, I, EVEN NOW, AS YOU KNOW, AM RESISTING TRYING TO CATEGORIZE EVERYONE. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, WHEN CERTAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE IN SOME QUARTERS, THE QUESTION HAS TO BE WHETHER OR NOT THE VIEW WAS MADE KNOWN TO THAT ONE IN PARTICULAR.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHEN YOUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN?

A. NO.

Q. I MEAN IS THIS A CONTINUING THING? IS IT JUST YESTERDAY OR IS IT THE LAST SIX MONTHS?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT AS LONG AS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING THESE VIEWS KNOWN PUBLICLY FROM THIS PODIUM, WHICH IS AS YOU KNOW FOR SOME TIME, THAT THOSE VIEWS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE KNOWN TO OTHER PARTIES.

Q. THAT GOES BACK TO LAST JUNE, YOU MEAN?

A. IT GOES BACK QUITE A WAYS. I CAN'T RECALL WHEN THIS PARTICULAR THING STARTED.

Q. TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, IS THE FIGHTING STILL CONFINED TO THE OGADEN OR HAS IT EXTENDED INTO SOMALIA?

A. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IT'S CONFINED TO THE OGADEN.

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Q. WHAT IS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE ISRAELI ROLE IN THE ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN INTERPRETATION.

Q. WOULD IT BE A CHALLENGE TO THE STATES, THEN?

A. I REALLY DON'T PUT IT IN THOSE TERMS.

Q. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THE ISRAELI EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED IN THE FIGHTING WITH SOMALIA?

A. I MUST CONFESS TO YOU THAT I DO NOT HAVE HARD

EVIDENCE TO OFFER ON THAT.

Q. IS IT FAIR, THEN, TO DEDUCE FROM YOUR RESTATEMENT OF THE POLICY, THAT THE AMERICAN ANSWER TO THE URGENT REQUEST THAT PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE WAS BRINGING FROM SOMALIA AND CHAD FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS "NO?"

A. I THINK I SAID ON THE QUESTION OF CHAD YESTERDAY THAT WE HAVE TOLD THEM, AND WE ARE TRYING IN THE CASE OF CHAD, TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR REQUEST FOR THIRD PARTY TRANSFERS.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT NOT ONLY ARE CUBANS INVOLVED IN FLYING THESE MIGS, BUT ALSO SOVIETS AND SOUTH YEMENIS. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THAT?

A. LET ME TAKE THAT BECAUSE I CAN'T RECALL.

Q. NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE INJECTION OF ARMS TO THE AREA BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT LEAD TO A UNCLASSIFIED

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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WOULDN'T THE ISRAELI ACTION BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE AMERICAN EFFORTS SINCE ISRAEL IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MAJOR ALLIES TO THE STATES?

A. I WILL STAND WITH WHAT I JUST SAID HERE TODAY AND WHAT HE SAID THERE, AGAIN WITHOUT TRYING TO CHARACTERIZE IT.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT OUT OF MOGADISCIO TODAY QUOTING WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND CUBANS ARE ABOUT TO LAND IN ETHIOPIA FROM RUSSIAN SHIPS. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION ON THAT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. YOU'RE AWARE OF THE REPORT?

A. OH, I'VE SEEN THE REPORT. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY NUMBERS ON THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA?

A. I DID THAT YESTERDAY. 3,000 AND 1,000.

Q. THAT HASN'T CHANGED?

A. NOT TODAY.

Q. GOING BACK TO MY PREVIOUS QUESTION, IF THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT ISRAELI ARMS ARE BEING USED BY THE ETHIOPIANS AGAINST SOMALIA, AND IF YOU CAN BE REASSURED THAT THEY ARE NOT, WOULD YOU STILL OBJECT TO THE ISRAELI UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPLIES?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT AS AN IFFY QUESTION. IT WAS MY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING FROM WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY RESTRICTIONS BEING PLACED ON THAT ASSISTANCE, IN THE TERMS THAT YOU'RE RAISING.

Q. TO THE SECRETARY'S KNOWLEDGE, HAS MR. SADAT BEEN MADE AWARE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE NOT TO PRESSURE ISRAEL FROM WITHDRAWING FROM EAST JERUSALEM AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS?

A. I'M SURE HE HAS SOME AWARENESS OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. I DON'T KNOW THAT HE HAS IN FACT PASSED OUT HIS CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS.

Q. THEN, IF HE HAS SOME AWARENESS, ISN'T MR. SADAT IN EFFECT URGING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PRESSURE THE PRESIDENT INTO BREAKING A CAMPAIGN PROMISE?

A. I WOULD SAY MR. SADAT IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS HIS CASE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHICH HE CERTAINLY HAS A RIGHT TO DO, AS DO OTHER FOREIGN LEADERS.

Q. I HAVE A HUNCH THAT JOSEPH KRAFT'S COLUMN WAS READ RATHER WIDELY IN THE GOVERNMENT TODAY, AND I WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER US ON IT. HE SAID, "THE ISRAELIS NOTIFIED THE AMERICANS ON JANUARY 5TH ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS AND RECEIVED NO GREAT PROTEST..." AND

I CAN GO ON.

A. LET ME DO TWO THINGS ON THAT, IF I MAY. FIRST, I'LL CONFIRM THAT THEY NOTIFIED US.

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Q. ON THAT DATE?

A. I BELIEVE THAT'S ROUGHLY CORRECT, THE 5TH.

Q. ABOUT WHICH SETTLEMENTS?

A. WAIT A MINUTE. LET ME GO AHEAD. AS JODY SAID IN HIS BRIEFING A FEW MINUTES AGO, "IT IS ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT -- AND HE MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING STRONGER -- TO SUGGEST THAT WE DID NOT IMMEDIATELY MAKE OUR PROTEST KNOWN ABOUT THAT. JODY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT I WAS GOING TO HAVE AVAILABLE A CHRONOLOGY ON THIS SUBJECT. I WILL HAVE IT AVAILABLE THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. CHRONOLOGY GOING BACK WHERE?

A. TO JANUARY 5TH.

Q. CAN YOU TRY TO GO BACK ALL THE WAY TO JULY 19TH?

A. YES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THAT'S ALSO POSSIBLE. I BELIEVE WHAT I'M GOING TO HAVE BEGINS ON JULY 19TH, AND THAT WHAT I WILL HAVE WILL BE A FAIRLY DETAILED CHRONOLOGY, AND I HOPE I WILL HAVE THAT FOR YOU BY MID-AFTERNOON.

Q. WHY ARE YOU RELEASING IT, THE CHRONOLOGY?

A. IT WAS A DECISION TAKEN THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF CONVERSATION ABOUT WHO SAID WHAT TO WHOM AND WHEN AND WHAT HAS COME OUT IN A FAIRLY UNSYSTEMATIC WAY, THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT TO RELEASE THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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CHRONOLOGY.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONCERN THAT THIS IS GOING TO ESCALATE?

A. THERE IS ALWAYS THE QUESTION OF WHOSE UTILITY IS BEST SERVED BY INFORMATION.

Q. ARE THESE SETTLEMENTS THEY NOTIFIED US ABOUT ON JANUARY 5TH?

A. THEY GAVE US INFORMATION ON THEIR SETTLEMENT PLANS IN THE SINAI AND THE WEST BANK FOLLOWING A JANUARY 4TH AUTHORIZATION OF FOUR ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS, WHOSE NAMES I DON'T HAVE HERE. LET ME ISSUE THIS FULL CHRONOLOGY, AND THEN WE WILL GO FROM THERE.

Q. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT NEW SETTLEMENTS, OR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT FORTIFYING OLD ONES, OR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE POLICY OF SETTLEMENTS?

A. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS.

Q. WERE THE FOUR SETTLEMENTS THAT THEY NOTIFIED YOU OF SETTLEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED AND WHICH YOU KNEW TO BE IMPENDING?

A. NO. THESE ARE THE ONES THAT WERE AUTHORIZED ON JANUARY 4TH.

Q. IS THERE A RELATION IN THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT?

A. NO. ABSOLUTELY NONE.

Q. IS IT IN ANY WAY RELATED TO PROGRESS OF DAYAN'S VISIT?
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A. I THINK IT IS RELATED TO A FAIR AMOUNT OF PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT, AND YOU MIGHT ASK JERUSALEM. I MEAN, THERE HAS BEEN A FAIR AMOUNT OF COMMENT ON THIS IN OTHER QUARTERS.

Q. YOU SAID JERUSALEM.

Q. YES, I SAID JERUSALEM. ONE YEAR AND ONE MONTH LATER, YOU FINALLY GOT ME TO SAY IT.

Q. CAN IT BE TAKEN AS A REACTION TO THE PHRASE IN THE COLUMN THAT THE PRESIDENT TOOK A "PHONY" STANCE AFTER JANUARY 5? I THINK THAT IS THE WORDS HE USED IN THE COLUMN?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT WHILE I DON'T ORDINARILY COMMENT ON COLUMNS, IT WAS NOT A PHONY STANCE.

Q. IN MAKING THIS NOTIFICATION ON JANUARY 5TH, DID THE ISRAELIS FULFILL WHATEVER COMMITMENTS THEY HAVE MADE

REGARDING THEIR POLICY TOWARDS SETTLEMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. LET ME AGAIN, ON THAT QUESTION, ISSUE THE CHRONOLOGY I THINK THAT WILL GO TO THAT QUESTION, AND IT MIGHT ANSWER IT.

Q. A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ON THE SAME SUBJECT. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN SEEING A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM THE HILL. I GUESS HE HAS A NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS TODAY. COULD YOU TELL US WITH WHOM HE HAS MET IN THE PAST TWO
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DAYS SINCE THE CAMP DAVID TALKS? I MEAN, PEOPLE FROM THE HILL.

A. YES. WE WILL TAKE IT AND GET YOU A LIST.

Q. SECOND, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A DECISION AS YET ON WHAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED TO EGYPT?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THERE HAS NOT BEEN.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER IT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION TO INFORM PRESIDENT SADAT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE OF A DECISION?

A. NO, I DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q. COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?

A. I CAN SEEK TO FIND THAT OUT.

Q. I THOUGHT THIS WHOLE SETTLEMENT CONTROVERSY STARTED WITH A PUBLICATION IN A COLUMN BY JAMES RESTON IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES."

A. I AM NOT EVEN SURE WHERE THE STARTING POINT IS OR IF IT IS A CONTROVERSY. IT IS, IN ANY CASE, A DISCUSSION, AND I DON'T REMEMBER THE ORIGIN OF IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION WHETHER MR. DAYAN WILL MEET WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS?

A. YES, HE WILL BE.

Q. WHEN?
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A. WHEN I HAVE THAT TIED DOWN, I WILL TELL YOU.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS?

A. THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS. I DO NOT KNOW OF WHAT PLANS --

Q. LIKE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE?

A. AGAIN, I AM JUST NOT SURE.

Q. IS THERE A CHANCE THAT THEY WOULD MEET OVER THE WEEKEND IN NEW YORK, BECAUSE BOTH OF THEM WILL BE THERE THEN?

A. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, AND JUST LOOKING AT THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS HE HAS, THE ANSWER IS NO. AS OF NOW, I KNOW OF NO PLANS NOR DO I KNOW OF ANY PLANNING FOR SUCH A THING. HE HAS A PRETTY FULL CALENDAR HAVING TO DO WITH THE CONTEXT OF THOSE TALKS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT?

A. I AM REALLY NOT THE RIGHT PERSON TO ASK. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ISN'T ANY CURRENT PLAN ON IT. I WOULD ASK THE WHITE HOUSE IF I WERE YOU.

Q. ON SETTLEMENTS, CAN YOU CAN WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OR IF YOU WANT TO BR BROADER THAN THAT, THE ADMINISTRATION, CONTRIBUTED IN SOME WAY TO THE INFORMATION OR TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE BY LEAKING TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS OR COLUMNISTS THEIR VIEW OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTLEMENT DISPUTE? I AM NOT ASKING YOU WHICH COLUMNS, THAT IS YOUR BUSINESS. BUT, HASN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT BEEN A PART OF THIS PUBLIC DEBATE?

A. IF YOU ARE ASKING ME WHETHER THE LEAK IS ALIVE AND WELL IN WASHINGTON, THE ANSWER IS YES. I MEAN, IT IS VERY CURRENT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON LEBANON, BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN BORDER CLASHES BETWEEN LEBANESE TROOPS AND SYRIAN TROOPS.

A. NO, I DON'T. I HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS, BUT I HAVE NOTHING.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR

INDIRECTLY, SUGGEST THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO ON A BROADER TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES? AND WAS HE IN FACT DISCOURAGED FROM DOING SO BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

A. I WON'T EVEN TAKE REFUGE IN A DODGE ABOUT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM. I AM NOT AWARE OF SUCH A THING INSOFAR AS WHAT CONVERSATIONS WE MAY HAVE HAD OF HIS TOUR, OR "NON-TOUR," OF WHAT HE MIGHT WANT TO DO. BUT IT'S MY IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD A PRETTY FULL SCHEDULE.

Q. I AM REALLY REFERRING BACK A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED TO ME THAT SADAT IN FACT WANTED TO VISIT A FEW OTHER CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES BUT WAS DISCOURAGED FROM DOING SO.

A. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET AN ANSWER TO THAT BECAUSE IT MAY FALL INTO THE GENERAL DICTUM OF NOT DISCUSSING THE CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE HAD. BUT I WILL TAKE IT WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT RESERVATION, THAT I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET AN ANSWER.

Q. WAS THERE A REAL ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THE SETTLEMENT?

A. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT: I AM GOING TO PUT OUT THIS CHRONOLOGY AT SOME POINT, HOPEFULLY THIS AFTERNOON. AT THAT POINT I WILL TAKE QUESTIONS.

Q. BACK TO MY ORIGINAL QUESTION ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE NEVER TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM JERUSALEM OR THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, I TAKE IT BY YOUR REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT SADAT IN HIS RIGHT TO SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS, YOU ARE NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN A PROMISE AND THAT U.S. POLICY IS NOW TO TRY TO PUSH ISRAEL OUT OF THOSE PLACES?

A. NO.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT IS STILL POLICY. WE ARE NOT GOING TO PRESSURE THEM?

A. I WOULD SAY IT IS OUR GENERAL POLICY THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO PRESSURE ANYBODY. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS ENCOURAGE THE PARTIES TO COME TO A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT -- AND THAT THAT IS A GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Q. WELL, IS IT OUR POLICY THAT THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT WOULD BE HELPED IF ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND EAST JERUSALEM?
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A. IT IS OUR POLICY THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT WOULD BE HELPED ONLY BY THE AGREEMENT THAT IS REACHED BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 2.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT

SPECIFICALLY, CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RELEASE THE SHIPMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA NOW THAT THE ETHIOPIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE PAID THE SHIPPING BILL?

A. WE HAVE REPEATED OFTEN THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO EITHER SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA WHILE THE OGADEN CONFLICT LASTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE APPARENTLY SOME SPARE PARTS AND OTHER MATERIEL IN THE HANDS OF ETHIOPIA'S U.S. FREIGHT FORWARDER TO WHICH TITLE HAD PASSED TO ETHIOPIA BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP LAST SPRING. THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THIS MATERIEL ARE STILL VALID.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO HAVE ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA UNDER CONTINUING HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS, OR HAVE YOU SEEN THE REPORTS THAT AMERICAN-MADE M-48 TANKS HAVE REACHED SOMALIA VIA OMAN OR SAUDI ARABIA?

A. WE CANNOT CONFIRM SUCH REPORTS. THE U.S. HAS NOT SOLD M-48 TANKS TO OMAN OR TO SAUDI ARABIA.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES INVESTIGATING TO DETERMINE WHETHER AMERICAN EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO SOMALIA
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CIRCUITOUSLY WITHOUT OFFICIAL U.S. PERMISSION?

A. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY U.S.-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SOMALIA IN CONTRAVENTION OF OUR FREQUENTLY REITERATED POLICY NOT TO APPROVE SUCH TRANSFERS BY THIRD COUNTRIES. RECIPIENTS OF U.S.-ORIGIN MATERIEL ARE WELL AWARE THAT VIOLATION OF U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON U.S. WILLINGNESS TO

PROVIDE MATERIEL IN THE FUTURE. THE U.S. WILL BE MAKING INQUIRIES OF THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT REPORTED CAPTURED. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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